

Neighbours unite for annual celebration

Perth, 30 March 2016: Lendlease's ten over 55s retirement communities in Western Australia each hosted a Neighbour Day luncheon throughout March to encourage residents to actively acknowledge the important role they play as neighbours in each other's lives.

National Neighbour Day was launched in March 2003 in Melbourne by Andrew Heslop after he heard about the remains of an elderly woman that were found inside her suburban home. Mrs Elsie Brown had been dead for two years – forgotten by her neighbours, her friends and her family and Mr Heslop couldn't believe that the world had left her behind.

Lendlease's Regional Manager, Retirement Living, Fiona Rinaldi said the role of neighbours in villages was a distinct and precious one.

"Our residents have a sense of emotional security and physical safety that is very unique, and the feeling is unable to be replicated by living in other conventional residential communities."

Resident Harvey Bates stumbled onto The Pines in Ellenbrook on a Sunday drive in the Swan Valley, and after one inspection of the homes and the lovely location he was 'sold'.

"We moved out of our large family home in Morley to The Pines and I only wish I'd done it sooner," said Harvey.

"There's always something to do here, including events like Neighbour Day where we can sit amongst friends and meet new neighbours."

For thousands of Australians like Harvey, the thought of losing links with neighbours and friends seems unlikely, but the reality of ageing and struggling to maintain big homes restricts many, and can be extremely isolating.

"I love not looking after the pool, and we can lock up and leave for holidays without worrying about the security of our home," said Harvey.

"It's a real sense of community here; we're chatting with friends and listening to the talented local kids. We wouldn't be doing this in my old street."

"The way our residents embrace and participate in their Village Neighbour Day celebrations epitomises the value they place on living in a retirement community," added Ms Rinaldi.

"We witness countless neighbourly acts every single day – you can't put on a price on that."

ENDS

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The Lendlease logo is a stylized, multi-colored shape (green, yellow, blue) with the word "lendlease" in white lowercase letters.

lendlease

Pic caption:

Students from Swan Valley Anglican Community School enjoy Neighbour Day with residents from The Pines

Seated cross legged: Jasmine Shepperd (red guitar) Yr 7

L to R: Celine Cee (Yr 12), Residents - Careen Mitchell, Harvey Bates, Marjorie Lyon, Coralie Apps

Back: Harley Gardiner (Yr 11) and Mark Blay (Yr 8)

About Lendlease

Lendlease is a leading international property and infrastructure group. Listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and with circa 11,900 employees worldwide, Lendlease's capabilities span the property value chain.

In Australia we offer development management; investment management; project management & construction and asset & property management. Our expertise covers multiple sectors including commercial, residential, retail, retirement and infrastructure.

